

MAP SHOWING COPPER AND MOLYBDENUM STREAM-SEDIMENT ANOMALIES, AMBLER RIVER QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

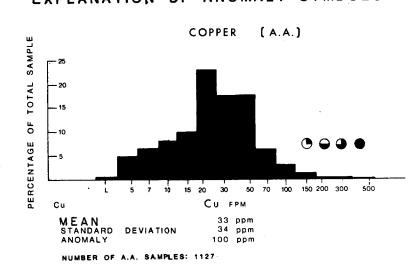
BY INYO ELLERSIECK 1978

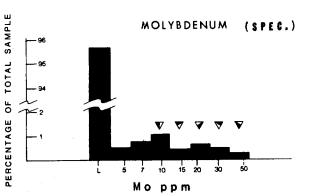
OPEN-FILE REPORT 78-120E

FOLIO OF THE AMBLER RIVER QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

ELLERSIECK - COPPER AND MOLYBDENUM GEOCHEMICAL ANOMALIES

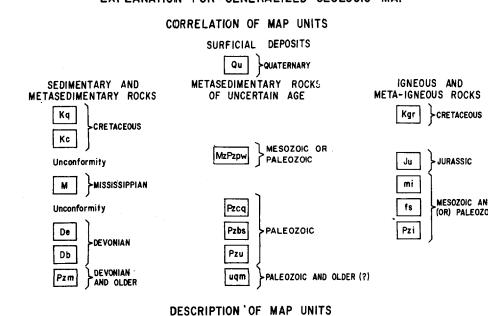
EXPLANATION OF ANOMALY SYMBOLS





L LOWER LIMIT OF ANALYTICAL METHOD

EXPLANATION FOR GENERALIZED GEOLOGIC MAP



SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

- Qu UNCONSOLIDATED SURFICIAL DEPOSITS (QUATERNARY) SEDIMENTARY AND METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS Kq QUARTZ CONGLOMERATE, SANDSTONE, AND MUDSTONE (CRETACEOUS)
- M LISBURNE GROUP AND UPPER PART OF ENDICOTT GROUP (MISSISSIPPIAN)—INCLUDES KAYAK SHALE AND De LOWER PART OF ENDICIOTT GROUP (DEVONIAN)-MAINLY SLATE AND SANDSTONE
- PZ m LIMESTONE AND MARBILE (DEVONIAN AND OLDER) METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS OF UNCERTAIN AGE PHYLLITE AND MAFIC VOLCANIC WACKE (MESOZOIC OR PALEOZOIC)

Kgr META-GRANITIC PLUTONIC ROCKS (CRETACEOUS)

- LITHOLOGIC CONTACT;; dashed where uncertain
- Generalized geologic map compiled by

C. F. MAYFIELD

Copper was measured by both the atomic absorbtion and emission spectrographic methods. Values from the atomic absorbtion method were used to identify anomalous samples for this map. An anomalous value is defined as one which is more than two standard deviations above the arithmetic mean

There are more reported occurrences of copper in the Ambler River quadrangle than any other mineral commodity (Mayfield and Grybeck, 1978). This is probably due in part to the fact that copper minerals can be conspicuous and easy to identify in outcrop. Of 35 copper occurrences which have streamsediment samples within five km downstream, eight (23%) have associated anomalous values of copper. There are more copper occurrences with associated stream-sediment anomalies of zinc (34%) and silver (26%), suggesting that these elements may be used to locate potential copper occurrences.

The primary concentration of copper anomalies is in the eastern schist belt, often associated with felsic igneous rocks (map unit fs) and/or known copper prospects. The western limit of copper stream-sediment anomalies correlates closely with the western limit of felsic bodies in the schist.

A second area of anomalous copper values is in the southern Jade Mountains. High copper values in this area are probably due to higher background copper concentrations in mafic igneous rocks (map unit mi) which outcrop in a belt nearly coincident with the anomalies. If this is the case, then these copper anomalies may not reflect copper deposits.

A few copper anomalies are in samples near the black phyllites of map units Db and Pzbs. Anomalous copper in these samples is usually associated with anomalous zinc. Shales rich in organic matter, from which the black phyllites were derived, are often enriched in copper and other metals relative to other sedimentary rocks (Tourtelot, 1970).

MOLYBDENUM

Only about five percent of the samples contain molybdenum in amounts above the five ppm lower limit measurable by the emission spectrographic method. Values of ten ppm and above, 1.8 percent of the samples, are plotted as anomalies.

Molybdenum anomalies are concentrated near the northwestern Shishakshinovik pluton, and north of the Kaluich pluton. There are, however, no molybdenum anomalies near the Redstone pluton. This pattern is also exhibited by tin, lead, beryllium, and zinc.

Molybdenum anomalies also occur near black phyllites of map units Db

REFERENCES

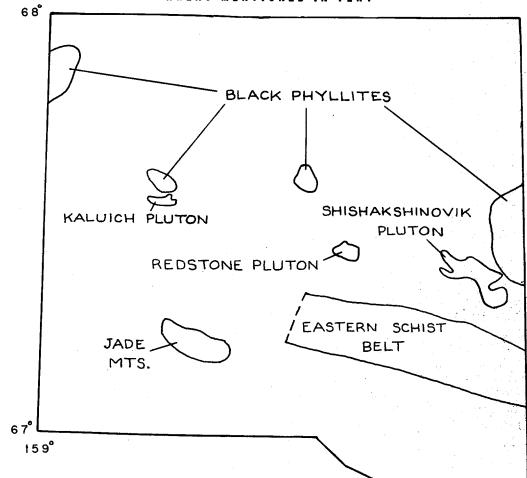
Ellersieck, Inyo, 1978a, Map showing stream-sediment geochemical sample locations, Ambler River quadrangle, Alaska: U. S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 78-120 B, scale 1:250,000, 1 sheet.

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Tourtelot, Elizabeth B., 1970, Selected annotated bibliography of minor-element content of marine black shales and related sedimentary rocks, 1930-65: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1293, 118 pages.

AREAS MENTIONED IN TEXT



Background information to this folio is published as U. S. Geological Survey Circular 793, available free of charge from the U. S. Geological Survey, Reston, Va. 22092.